



TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT FOR:

H.B. NO. 6633 FAIR SHARE HOUSING

February 2023

Co-chairs and Members of the Housing Committee,

We are residents of Hamden, Connecticut and Co-Founders of neighborhood action group, Spring Forward. Spring Forward is an all-volunteer, bi-partisan and multigenerational neighborhood action group interested in expanding housing opportunity for all. Spring Forward has grown to include over 300 interested community members who want to see more equitable distribution of housing opportunity across our neighborhood, town and state, as well as investment in the businesses and housing of historically underserved districts.

Connecticut is one of the more racially segregated states in the country, and Hamden reflects this trend. While Hamden is a diverse town, our closely knit neighborhood is not. Many of us were aware of redlining, but we now have a deeper understanding of how our own neighborhood reflects those practices. It is no mystery that historical housing practices and local zoning regulations have contributed to the housing inequality we see in our community today.

Connecticut has an overabundance of exclusivity and an extreme scarcity of affordable housing. *While local governance is important*, local decisions have created social injustice and economic inequity. We need more abundant housing and more diverse types of housing. Modelled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, HB 6633 would lead to more than 130,000 new housing units over ten years while keeping local communities in the driver's seat to determine how and where the housing in their town gets built. Our belief is that increasing housing choice in more communities will help to provide more equitable access to opportunity for CT residents and begin to decrease racial and economic segregation across neighborhoods.

Resolving this housing crisis will necessarily need to be a multi-pronged effort and Fair Share Housing is a vital component in making our communities more inclusive, sustainable, prosperous and beautiful. We hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Signed,
Marissa Dionne Mead, Danielle Chapman, and Paul Saubestre
Representatives of Spring Forward, Hamden.